



CALPEEK

CALIFORNIA POLITICAL WEEK

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CAMPAIGN '98: UPDATE ON DOWN-BALLOT RACES.

Editor's note: Here are some brief updates on some of the CA Statewide (down-ballot) races, including new polling data...

☒ **Controller** - The new Field Poll shows incumbent Demo Kathleen Connell with 48% name ID and 45% of the vote vs. San Mateo Co. Sup. Ruben Barrales(R) with only 11% name ID and 14% of the vote --- if the election were held now. 4% are for other candidates and 37% are undecided in the Field Poll, Mar. 5-15, 602 r/v (383 likely voters)...

☒ **Insurance Commissioner** - Incumbent Chuck Quackenbush(R) is sitting with 68% name ID in the latest Field Poll, while his 2 Demo rivals, Assemblywoman Diane Martinez is at 18% and Marin Co. Sup. Hal Brown has only 11% name ID. In the open primary, Quackenbush gets 38% vs. 15% for Martinez, 5% for Brown, 5% for others and 37% undecided. The spin from some Demo campaign consultants is that neither Martinez nor Brown are appealing candidates and Quackenbush is considered a favorite in November, despite some key negatives - such as his taking millions of dollars in contributions from insurance companies in his '94 campaign...

☒ **Treasurer** - Sacto businessman & former CDP chair Phil Angelides sits on atop a huge \$900,000+ war chest, while GOP Assemblymen Jan Goldsmith and Curt Pringle are trailing badly. Pringle's cash-on-hand is \$153,207 while Goldsmith's COH is \$113,364, but Pringle is carrying a campaign debt of \$56,000 (vs. \$3,000 for Goldsmith). In the current Field Poll, Angelides leads with 19% vs. 13% for Pringle and 9% for Goldsmith. 6% are for others and 53% are undecided. The snipping between Pringle & Goldsmith has intensified over the past few weeks...

☒ **Attorney General** - There is a new poll by Voter Consumer Research, Mar. 20-24, 800 likely voters. This survey is not connected to either GOP candidate running for AG, but VCR generally works for Republican candidates. It shows: Mike Capizzi(R) 12%, Bill Lockyer(D) 10%, Lynn Schenk(D) 9%, Charles Calderon(D) and Dave Stirling(R) at 8% each, undecided 50% (w/3% won't vote or refused to answer). In this particular survey, ballot titles were used. Although Stirling's ballot title is now Deputy Attorney General, in this particular poll he was listed as "Chief Deputy AG," which was his title. Stay tuned...

CA INITIATIVE UPDATE: INDIAN GAMING PLAN IS ON THE STREET. WILL IT QUALIFY FOR BALLOT??

Editor's note: The initiative to bypass Gov. Pete Wilson(R) and allow a number of Calif. Indian tribes to continue operating their card club casinos with video slot machines is on the street collecting signatures in an effort to make the Nov. 3rd ballot. Will it qualify?? Here's our update & analysis of this complex issue...

...All the buzz among political & Capitol insiders is centered on a statute with the official ballot title of **Tribal-State Gaming Compacts. Tribal Casinos**. The sponsors call their initiative the *Tribal Govt. Gaming & Economic Self-Sufficiency Act*. Millions of dollars are being poured into this proposal to qualify it for the general election. The sponsors saturated the tv airwaves the last week of March with a ad which stressed themes such as "sovereignty" & "economic self-reliance." **Cal-peek** sources think the tv spot was made *after polling* was completed by Fairbank, Maslin & Maullin...

...The tv spot was produced by Santa Monica-based Winner, Wagner & Mandabach, the campaign consultant. At the end of the tv campaign, perhaps as many as

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a **4 million pieces** of direct mail containing a signature petition were sent to likely voters statewide. In addition, petition circulators are now on the street collecting names at **\$2 per signature**. The *normal going rate* is about \$.50 per name. Nat'l Petition Mgt. is in charge of this part of the effort. Bottomline: we're talking **\$3-5 million** as of April 13th and the price tag will go up...

...Why are the Indians rushing to make the Nov. 3rd ballot? The clock is ticking because Gov. Wilson recently signed a compact with the Pala tribe and most of the 20 tribes now backing this initiative don't like this agreement, although our sources say at least 3-5 tribes which currently operate video slots may sign the Pala compact. The Calif. gaming tribes have only 4 choices: 1) join the Pala compact; 2) don't sign and face the strong possibility of legal action from the U.S. DOJ within the next 2-3 months; 3) negotiate a separate deal with Wilson; or 4) launch an initiative. Some tribes don't believe option #3 is viable. They say Wilson won't negotiate with them. That may be true...

...Initiative problems. **Problem #1.** In order to change the Calif. Constitution to permit gambling devices and lotteries at tribal casinos and to permit slot machines, the backers needed a **constitutional amendment** - not a statute. That's what our sources say. The YES side disagrees and undoubtedly there will be a legal battle if this initiative makes the ballot. Sponsors need 650,000 valid signatures to insure qualification. The deadline is Apr. 17th, but backers may stay out a little longer...

...**Problem #2.** Let's say this measure qualifies and the legal challenges are dismissed. What are the chances that it will pass? **Calpeek** sources are *not* overly optimistic. Opposition will include Las Vegas, the regular Calif. card clubs and Calif. horse racing interests, with a combined war chest of **\$30-60 million**. Over the past 12-18 months, our sources say the Calif./Nevada Indian Gaming Assn. has seen at least 3-4 surveys all showing the same thing: even with a very positive push question, the support level is only about 53-55% for expanded gaming at Calif. tribal casinos. Knowing what the opposition may pump in, sources say the Indians need to start out with at least 65% support to have any shot. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN '98: CALIF. STATE SENATE PRIMARIES.

Editor's note: This week **Calpeek** begins its expanded coverage of Legislative primary races, starting with the Calif. State Senate primaries. Here's our update...

...20 even numbered seats are up on Nov. 3rd. Demos under new leader John Burton hold a 23 to 16 advantage over the GOP, with 1 seat held by *termed out* independent Quentin Kopp of S.F. For the GOP to take control, they'd have to win 5 seat in November. That isn't going to happen, even though new GOP Senate Leader Ross Johnson and new Caucus chair Jim Brulte are masters when it comes to campaigns...

◆ **Once Hot, Not Now** - **Calpeek** sources originally IDed about 5 primaries which were going to be hard fought and costly. But not now. Demos getting off with easy primaries include incumbent Hilda Solis(**24th SD**); Assemblywoman Debra Bowen(open **28th SD**); former Assemblyman Sal Cannella(**12th SD**); and Assemblywoman Martha Escutia(open **30th SD**). On the GOP side, Assemblyman Chuck Poochigian has a free ride in the open **14th SD**...

The Hot Primary Battles

◆ **26th SD** - This primary features a *political food fight* between Assemblyman Kevin Murray and former Assemblywoman Marguerite Archie-Hudson. The favorite is Murray, but Archie-Hudson was the first to draw blood with her postcard hit about Murray's state-owned 'Vett with the AD 47 license plates. And while Archie-Hudson is endorsed by *termed out* Sen. Diane Watson, Murray is better funded and has the bulk of the other key endorsements, plus backing from the CDP...

◆ **20th SD** - This primary pits former Demo Assembly Leader Richard Katz against L.A. Councilman Richard Alarcon. A February poll for Katz by Fairbank Maslin Maullin showed Katz with a **37% to 16%** lead over Alarcon. Katz is backed by L.A. Councilmembers Mike Feuer & Laura Chick, as well as *termed out* State Sen. Herschel Rosenthal. Katz also won the CDP endorsement. And while Alarcon is supported by the L.A. Police Protective League, most other law enforcement groups have endorsed Katz. Katz should be able to hold even in his old 37th AD, but should crush Alarcon in the 40th AD portion of the district. Katz is a clear favorite...

◆ **6th SD** - This primary is for the open seat held by *termed out* Sen. Leroy Greene(D). The Demo nominee eventually will be Assemblywoman Deborah Ortiz of Sacto, but there's a major battle on the GOP side between three candidates: Richard Davis, who was the GOP nominee in the 9th AD vs. Ortiz in '96; Mike McCollum, favorite of the hardline conservatives; and Chris Quackenbush, wife of Insurance Commissioner Chuck Quackenbush. Quackenbush is supported by Johnson/Brulte and is the candidate the Demos think will win. But McCollum has backing from the **CRA** and other conservative activists. His team views the primary as a repeat of the **22nd CD** (Bordonaro vs. Firestone) or *money vs. activists*. If it were just McCollum vs. Quackenbush that might fly, but with Davis in the mix, our source lean toward Mrs. Q...

◆ **10th SD** - This primary features Assemblymembers Liz Figueroa(20th AD) vs. Mike Sweeney (18th AD) in the battle to replace Bill Lockyer(D), who is neutral unless one of the candidates goes negative. So far the only thing that's hot is that consultant Richie Ross dumped long time client Figueroa for Sweeney --- and that has caused some hard feelings. Gale Kaufman now handles Figueroa. They are almost equal in fundraising, but Sweeney has a debt of \$50,000. Figueroa is the more aggressive in terms of style, while Sweeney is laid back. Some sources rate the primary as a *toss up*, while others think Figueroa has a edge. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN '98: CALIFORNIA INITIATIVE UPDATE.

Editor's note: Here's another update on initiatives.

◆ **Traps Ban Qualifies** - The first initiative to make the Nov. 3rd ballot is a statute which would ban the trapping of mammals classified as fur-bearing with body-gripping traps or animal poisons. The sponsors are Alan Hugh Berger & Aaron Medlock. ☎(916)731-5521 or (310)207-7706...

● **New Poll on Prop. 223** - Pollster Mervin Field's latest survey on Prop. 223 (the so-called 95/5 initiative on school spending limits on administration) shows the YES side still ahead. The latest sample of 602 voters (383 likely voters) showed YES at 51% vs. 30% NO, and 19% undecided. In February, the polling showed YES ahead by a 53% vs. 27% margin. The biggest problem for NO on 223 consultant Wayne Johnson are

GOP voters, who currently back the measure by a 62% vs. 22% margin...

◆ **Trashing the Utility Dereg Law** - The object of an initiative statute now gathering signatures is to undo a new law which *deregulates* the utility industry in CA. This law has been praised by many and bashed by some consumer groups. The initiative is sponsored by Harvey Rosenfield of Prop. 103 fame; Nettie Hoge, the executive director of The Utility Reform Network; and attorney Elisabeth Robinson Gunther. Gunther's husband, Herbert, is the executive director of S.F.-based Public Media Center, an ad agency which is playing a key role in this effort. The initiative hit the street Feb. 11th and sources say Rosenfield bypassed the regular petition management firms (Arno, Kimball, Progressive) and went directly to the crew chiefs with a deal to collect paid signatures. There is a volunteer effort as well. Backers need a minimum of 650,000 signatures to qualify. Sources tell **Calpeek** the utility companies (and their political consultants: Townsend Raimundo, et al and Winner, Wagner & Mandabach) are watching very closely...

CAMPAIGN '98: UPDATE ON U.S. HOUSE CONTESTS.

Editor's note: Here's new info on some of the hot U.S. House primary races, including the April 7th **special elections** in the 44th & 9th CDs...

☒ **44th CD** - With a 29.3% voter turnout in Riverside Co.'s special election to replace the late Sonny Bono(R-Palm Springs), his widow, Mary Bono, mashed her chief rival, Demo actor Ralph Waite by a 64.1% vs. 28.7% margin. The *Widow Factor* at work again. Four other candidates got about 8%. Even a late, negative news story quoting Sonny's mom didn't slow Mary Bono down. Thus Bono takes over the 44th CD now. As for Waite, he'll go for a rematch in November. Prediction: Bono wins again...

☒ **9th CD** - As expected, State Sen. Barbara Lee (D-Oakland) easily won the seat held until recently by Ron Dellums(D-Oakland). Lee got 66.9%. Her nearest Demo rival, Emeryville Councilman Greg Harper, got 16.2%. So Lee will take her seat in congress at the same time as Bono. Turnout in this special was 15.09%...

☒ **46th CD** - In the GOP primary between attorney

Lisa Hughes and former congressman Bob Dornan, Hughes has won the endorsement of U.S. Rep. Jerry Lewis of Riverside. She also has backing from State Senate GOP Leader Ross Johnson and from State Assembly GOP Leader Bill Leonard. Why is Hughes winning these endorsements? Sources think that she's in a better position to defeat incumbent U.S. Rep. Loretta Sanchez(D) than Dornan...

CALPEEK'S INFOBAHN: POLITICAL SHORT TAKES.

Editor's note: Here are a few political items worth noting...

■ ***Stand Up to Starr*** - What we're talking about is a legal defense fund for Susan McDougal, who just finished 18-months in the slammer on a federal contempt citation brought by independent counsel Kenneth Starr because McDougal wouldn't rat out the Clintons over Whitewater. But she remains in an L.A. Co. jail for another 24-months because she was convicted on 4 counts in the Whitewater mess. Why is she in an L.A. jail facility instead of a federal facility? Ask L.A. Co. DA Gil Garcetti. She's not due for trial in connection with a local case until July. Anyway, McDougal is tapped out financially so she and her attorney Mark Geragos have started this fund. Political consultant and spin doctor Kelly Hayes-Raitt will handle free media. Want to help? Call 1-888-785-1885...

■ ***Century Cable Free TV Offer*** - Century Communications (Century Cable) has offered all statewide candidates free air time. Submit a videotape not exceeding 5 minutes by Apr. 20th. For info about this offer, contact John Monaghan (310)315-4469. The tapes will be aired from May 11 to June 1 on a statewide basis...

■ ***A West Coast Primary*** - CA Sec. of State Bill Jones(R) and State Sen. Jim Costa(D-Fresno) have teamed up on SB 1999, which would move Calif.'s presidential primary to the first Tuesday in March. Under SB 1999, the 2000 primary would be moved from June 6 to Mar. 7. Jones wants to coordinate this Calif. effort with both Oregon & Washington to create a powerhouse West Coast primary. Great idea...

■ ***Parental Consent*** - GOP Assembly Leader Bill Leonard has introduced ACA 38, which would restore Calif.'s parental consent law (overturned by the CA

Supreme Court). There are no loopholes and no tricks to outlaw abortion in this ACA. The CA Legislature passed a such a law in 1987. If this ACA gets past Gov. Pete Wilson (it probably won't) and onto the November ballot, Chief Justice Ron George will be *political toast*. Stay tuned...

NEW JOBS, ADDRESSES AND PERSONNEL NOTICES.

Editor's note: Here are some items to mark down in your notebook. We've got a ton of these notes in our file...

● Kirk West, recently retired president of the CA Chamber of Commerce, has join Goddard*Claussen as chairman. He'll be based in the firm's Sacto office...

● L.A. Councilwoman Rita Walters has appointed Delpha Hacker Flad as COS...

● Lafayette-based Winning Results, Inc. has moved. New address: 3527 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Ste. 265, Lafayette, CA 94549. ☎(925)299-1612...

CALPEEK'S MARKETPLACE NETWORK

● **Junior fundraiser and event coordinator** for targeted Republican assembly nominee. Perfect position for someone with 1-2 years experience in fundraising with fundraising firm or elected official. Los Angeles/South Bay area campaign. April to November. Fax resume to (310)374 - 5490...

● **Experienced writer wanted** for established political consulting and public relations firm. Must have strong direct mail and/or news writing skills and experience. Salary open. Send resume & samples to P.O. Box 160944, Sacramento, CA 95816...

● **Law firm specializing** in political and election law seeks a manager for its Political Reporting Unit. Responsibilities: overseeing preparation of campaign and lobbying disclosure reports for PACs, major donors, lobbyist employers, candidates and nonprofit organizations on the federal, state(s) and local level. BA req; MA pref. Send/fax resume to Kate Lynch, Nielsen, Merksamer, 591 Redwood Highway., #4000, Mill Valley, CA 94941; Fax (415)388-6874. No telephone calls...

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